

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The administration of the judicial system is directed by the Minister of Justice. Following are the categories of courts in order of their importance:
 - a. The Supreme Court, which is in Sofia;
 - b. District Courts, which are in all of the larger towns;
 - c. County Courts; and
 - d. People's Councils, which can levy fines up to 30,000 leva.
2. The District Court has a president and two members. The president is appointed, and is a law school graduate. The two members are nominally chosen by the people, but are actually chosen by the Communist Party. The County Court has only one judge.
3. The State prosecution is headed by the Chief Prosecutor of the Republic. There are District Prosecutors at every District Court, and each District Prosecutor has a number of assistants. For each case the District Prosecutor appoints an assistant to maintain the charge, or in important cases, to be the accuser.
4. The defendant is entitled to defense by a lawyer after he has received an indictment; until then, he is in the hands of the police.
5. In the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party there is a judicial department through which the Communist Party can intervene in any case. The Communist Party determines the indictment speech of the prosecutor, the questions to be asked the accused, and the final verdict. In some important political cases, as in the trial of the Military Union, there is a rehearsal for the trial.
6. During the 1947 trial of Nikola Petkov, the speeches of the prosecutors of the Sofia District Court, Petrinski and Minkovski, were written by the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Questions asked by the court were written in advance by the Communist Party. Both the prosecution and defense witnesses were arrested well in advance of the trial, and were given answers which they were told to study. In addition, a group of Communist Party members were posted in front of the court to shout, "Death, death." The newspapers repeated that the "people" wanted the death penalty for Petkov.

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7. The military courts are subordinate to the Military Court Section of the Ministry of Defense, and to the Supreme Court in Sofia. There are District Military Courts in Sofia, Plovdiv, Kolarovgrad, and Pleven. The regimental commanders also have some judicial authority. In time of war, there are Voenno Polevi Courts attached to every division with jurisdiction over army personnel and civilians. The Communist Party intervenes in the military courts through the political commissar attached to military units.
8. The arbitrary nature of the Bulgarian judicial system is due largely to the discretionary powers allowed the courts. Article 1 of the Penal Law states that a crime is that deed which is declared by this law as such, and, in case there is no precise statement, the court is entitled to apply analogy. This article makes possible a very broad interpretation and application of the laws and entitles the court to charge the citizen with a crime which might not even remotely resemble any crime mentioned by the law.
9. Military men are tried by the special Martial Law which permits the exercise of the same analogy principle described above. In addition the Martial Law does not specify penalties. The court can arbitrarily impose penalties, and its judgment is not confined to any particular precedent. Thus, on the basis of this law, a murderer can receive a very light sentence, and could even be pronounced not guilty; on the other hand, if a person whom the authorities wish to annihilate commits even the slightest violation, he could receive a heavy sentence.

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1. Education is nominally under the Ministry of Public Education, which is headed by Kiril Dramaliev. Actually, the educational program is dictated by the Educational Section of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party.
2. In 1950 the so-called Unified Schools, copied from the Soviet system, were established in Bulgaria. These schools have eleven grades. There are several such schools in Sofia already. In addition to these general education schools there are factory schools, where children receive general education and vocational training, and other technical and commercial schools throughout the country. In Lovech there is a high school for foreign languages on the former premises of the American School for Girls. This school is for the children of selected Party members who will eventually work in the diplomatic field, or in some other capacity in which foreign languages are a necessity. The children of the "new aristocracy" attend this school.
3. Higher education is attained in the universities of Sofia, Plovdiv, and Stalin (Varna). There are also independent academies such as the Polytechnical Academy of Sofia, the medical academies in Sofia and Plovdiv, the Kliment University of Sofia, the Music Academy of Sofia, the Art Academy of Sofia, the Higher Dramatic School of Sofia, and the Higher School of Physical Education of Sofia. Not all children are admitted to the higher schools. Their purpose is to educate new and faithful members for the Party cadres, and to accomplish this, only the children of Communists or pro-Communists are admitted to the universities. To enroll in a university, one must present a Certificate of Reliability from the Dimitrov Union of Peoples Youth (DSNM) and a recommendation from the Party organization in the section of the town in which the applicant lives. Children of "former citizens" cannot enter the universities. Constant efforts are made to remove from the universities "unreliable" elements, and students who have shown anti-Communist feelings.
4. The Council of Ministers ordered that factory workers be admitted to the higher schools for the 1950-1951 school year. The factory workers, who had practically no education, made up about 30 percent of the new students. These factory workers were trained for six months by special teachers; this was considered sufficient preparation to enter the universities.

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5. A number of the sons of proven Communists are given scholarships to study abroad. The scholarship students are nominated by the Committee for Science, Art, and Culture, and the children of high Party officers, former partisans, and leading members of the regime are favored. There are scholarships for all Satellite countries, but the largest number are for the Soviet Union. For the 1950-1951 school year, an exchange of five students was made between Bulgaria and Communist China.
6. The former foreign schools and institutions are closed. There are two new foreign schools, Soviet and Czech, which, according to the Foreign School law, only foreign citizens' children can attend.
7. Textbooks are either direct translations of Soviet books, or are written in Bulgarian according to the Soviet model. Students are taught first to love Stalin and the Soviet Union, and then their own country. Consequently, the most important subjects are Marxism, Leninism and the Russian language. The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party watches closely to make certain that the Party line in education is observed, and that no deviation is allowed.
8. The Bulgarian Communist Party gives much attention to the youth of the country. In this respect the Party has achieved some success. The youth are organized in the DSNM (Dimitrov Union of Peoples Youth), which is a sort of preparatory school for the Bulgarian Communist Party. Members of the DSNM are students, young workers, and young peasants. The DSNM has branches in every school, factory, institution, and populated area. The control is exercised locally by the appropriate Party organization. The pre-gymnasium students are members of one of the subdivisions of the youth organization called Septemvriyche, and the elementary school students are members of the other subdivision called Chavdarche. The uniform of the Chavdarche is white shirt, blue pants (or blue skirts for girls) and blue neckerchief. The same uniform, with the exception of a red neckerchief, is worn by the members of the Septemvriyche.
9. The future of each young person depends upon how he is regarded by the youth organization. If he is in good standing, he will be able to continue his education; otherwise his opportunities are limited to becoming a general worker in a factory or on a farm. The DSNM trains its members for a future war. Following the Soviet model, two courses have been introduced: "Ready for Labor and Defense" (GTO) and "Ready for Medical Defense" (GSO). These two courses are preparatory training for barracks life; the members receive training including hiking, swimming, running, bicycling, skiing, shooting, and first aid. Those who pass the examinations successfully are given GTO and GSO badges. In 1950 there were ten-day courses which were attended by men and women.
10. During 1950 special instructors in military science were assigned to the higher schools. The lecturers are former officers of the Army who teach military tactics, use of weapons, military administration, sanitation and radio technique. Every school has an auditorium for practical training in such things as radio transmission, topography. Each higher school has a certain number of small-calibre rifles which are used for training purposes. Each student is required to spend a month during the summer in field practice.

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